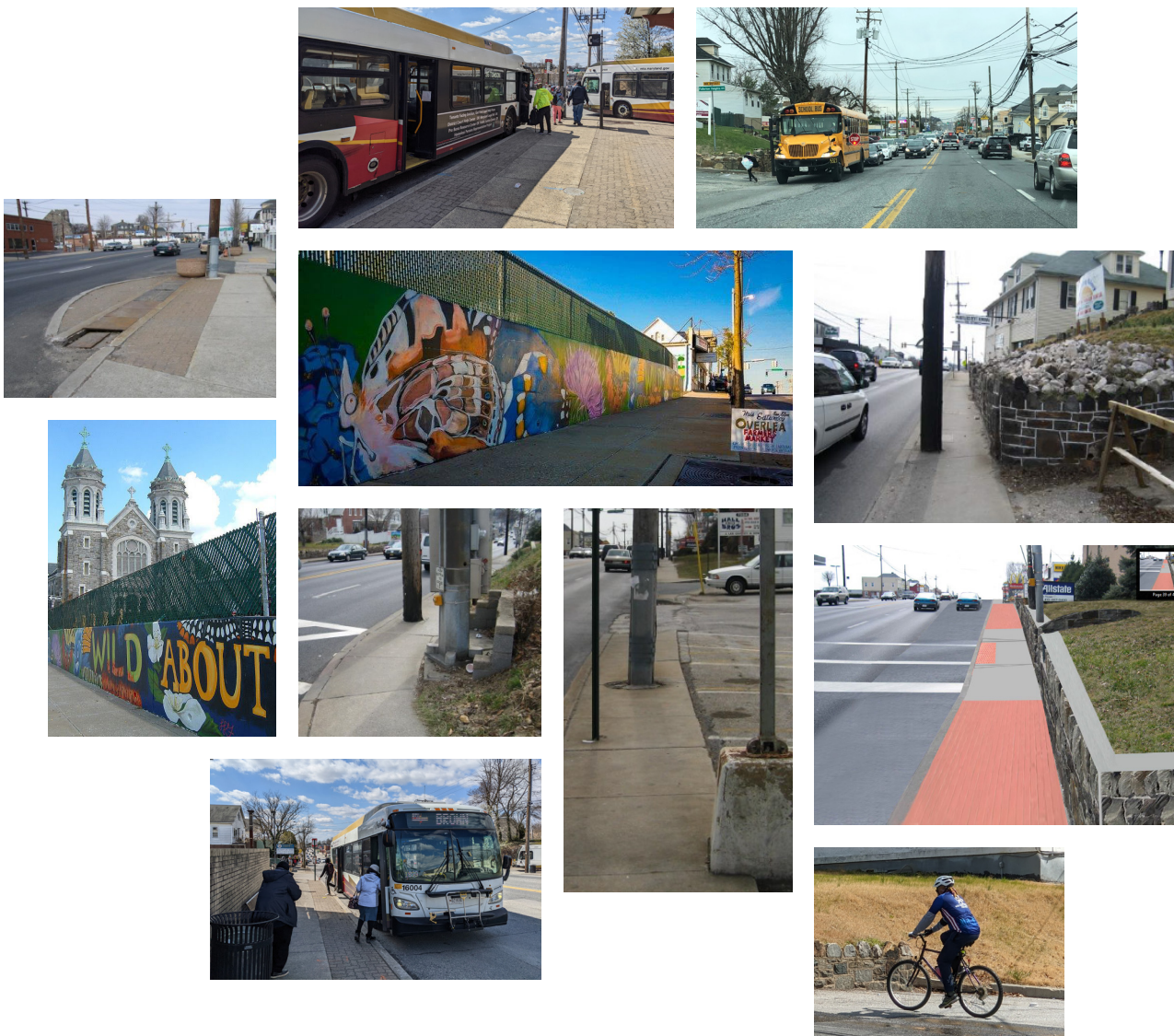




US 1 Overlea Community Safety Improvement Project



2022 RAISE Grant Application

Appendix E: Financial Documents
Funding Commitments

April 14, 2022



State Highway Administration
707 N Calvert St, Baltimore, MD 21202



April 11, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure for Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *US 1 Overlea Community Safety Improvement Project* (Project). This critical urban project aligns with the primary selection criteria and will provide significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Baltimore region and the Overlea Community.

The Project will add turn lanes and significantly enhance access and mobility through Americans with Disability Act (ADA) improvements and enable healthy, active transportation on US 1 between I-695 and the Baltimore City line. Historically, US 1 has experienced long traffic queues during peak travel periods, creating congestion and safety concerns. US 1 experiences significant pedestrian crash rates, which are two times higher than the statewide average. Additionally, within the Project area, there is a half mile segment of US 1 that experiences pedestrian crash rates four times higher than the statewide average for similar routes. The Project addresses critical community safety concerns, reduces congestion delays, and provides more reliable travel times in order to support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

US 1 is a key transit corridor that serves the Overlea Community and connects the City of Baltimore with the suburban commercial centers of Putty Hill and White Marsh, providing access to thousands of jobs, retail and entertainment opportunities, and additional transportation connections. The MDOT Maryland Transit Administration's (MDOT MTA) CityLink Brown route serves the corridor every 20 minutes during peak periods. Boardings and alightings have grown since 2019, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, with MDOT MTA now experiencing over 1,400 boardings and alightings daily. Unfortunately, existing conditions in the corridor keep the route from reaching its potential: noncompliant ramps, inadequate boarding and alighting areas, broken sidewalks, and utility poles inhibit bus stop access, while traffic congestion reduces travel speeds. The Project will address these shortcomings, improving transit access for pedestrians and reducing travel delays for passengers riding transit to, from, and through the corridor.

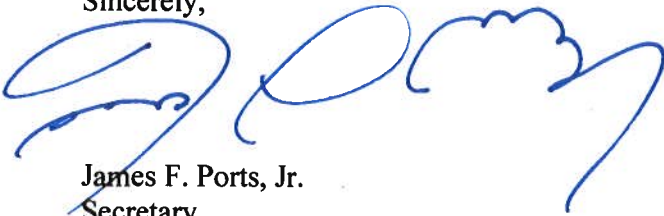
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Page Two

Finally, the Maryland School for the Blind (MSB) is located in the Overlea area and is a strong proponent of the project. MSB is a leading educational facility for the blind and visually impaired. Like Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., MSB provides unique, essential services to approximately 1,200 students throughout all twenty-four Maryland jurisdictions. These students face enormous challenges as pedestrians in the project area. Applying ADA safety elements, such as upgraded audible pedestrian crossing signals, will significantly enhance safety for the student population and is a key benefit of the project.

The application represents a strong partnership among MDOT SHA, Baltimore County, the US 1 Overlea Community members and businesses, as well as elected officials representing this area. The MDOT SHA is prepared to commit its required match of the grant funds.

I urge you to approve MDOT SHA's grant application for this critical Project. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Heather Murphy, MDOT Office of Planning and Capital Programming (OPCP) Director, at 410-865-1275 or by email at hmurphy@mdot.state.md.us. Of course, you may always contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Ports, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James F. Ports, Jr.
Secretary

cc: Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, OPCP, MDOT

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Page Three

bcc: Ms. Samantha Biddle, Chief of Staff, MDOT
Ms. Pilar Helm, Director, Office of Government Affairs, MDOT
Mr. Mark Howard, Federal Legislative Manager, MDOT SHA
Mr. Samuel Kahl, Deputy Director of Policy and Government Relations, MDOT SHA
Mr. R. Earl Lewis, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Policy, Planning, and Enterprise Services, MDOT
Ms. Michelle Martin, Deputy Director, OPCP, MDOT
Mr. Sean Powell, Deputy Secretary of Operations and Homeland Security, MDOT
Tim Smith, P.E., Administrator, MDOT SHA
Mr. Jeff Stockdale, Federal Legislative Officer, MDOT
Richard Y. Woo, Ph.D., Director, Office of Policy and Research, MDOT SHA



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

April 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Baltimore County is pleased to support the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure for Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *US 1 Overlea Community Safety Improvement Project* (Project). This critical urban project aligns with the primary selection criteria and will provide significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits and is a priority of Baltimore County.

The Project will add turn lanes and significantly enhance access and mobility through Americans with Disability Act (ADA) improvements and enable healthy, active transportation on US 1 between I-695 and the Baltimore City line. Historically, US 1 has experienced long traffic queues during peak travel periods, creating congestion and safety concerns. US 1 experiences significant pedestrian crash rates, which are two times higher than the statewide average. Additionally, within the Project area, there is a half mile segment of US 1 that experiences pedestrian crash rates four times higher than the statewide average for similar routes. The Project addresses critical community safety concerns, reduces congestion delays, and provides more reliable travel times in order to support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

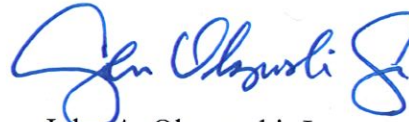
US 1 is a key transit corridor that serves the Overlea Community and connects the City of Baltimore with the suburban commercial centers of Putty Hill and White Marsh, in Baltimore County, providing access to thousands of jobs, retail and entertainment opportunities, and additional transportation connections. The application represents a strong partnership among MDOT SHA, Baltimore County, the US 1 Overlea Community members and businesses, as well as elected officials representing this area. Baltimore County is prepared to commit \$7 million towards the local match of the grant funds.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
April 13, 2022
Page 2 of 2

I ask you to favorably consider the project as it supports our collective goals to adapt to the region's changing needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John A. Olszewski, Jr." in a cursive style.

John A. Olszewski, Jr.
Baltimore County Executive